

Atty. Docket No. YO-999-599
(590.005)

REMARKS

Applicants and the undersigned are most grateful for the time and effort accorded the instant application by the Examiner. The Office is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections presented in the outstanding Office Action in light of the following remarks.

Claims 1-19 were pending in the instant application at the time of the outstanding Office Action. Of these claims, Claims 1, 10, and 19 are independent claims; the remaining claims are dependent claims. Claims 1, 2, 5-11 and 14-19 stand rejected 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Brandow et al. (hereafter "Brandow") in view of Ellozy et al. (hereafter "Ellozy"). The Office has admitted that not one of these references describe the present invention, but claims that combination of the teachings of these references would be obvious to a person skilled in the art. This is not supported by the references. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the present rejections are hereby respectfully requested.

The present invention broadly contemplates a system and method that is based on an application of a statistical translation model (trained from a parallel or comparable corpus) to feature regularization for audio indexing. (Page 4, lines 5-7) The statistical machine translation model improves the quality of text features used to create the audio indexing database. The text data, created by a speech recognizer and/or feature extraction arrangement, is processed by the statistical translation model, trained on a parallel sets of automatically and by-hand transcribed data. (Page 4, lines 7-10) The present invention

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may be used in can be used not only in audio indexing, but also in any application where noisy text data is processed, such as: in indexing hand-writing recognition corpus, in indexing scanned (OCR processed) documents, and in indexing sources corrupted by typing errors, as is the case of many Internet sources. (Page 10, line 16 - Page 11, line 4)

As best understood, Brandow appears to be directed to improving the accuracy of speech recognition through linguistic post-processing. (Col. 1, lines 17-18) Text data generated from a speech recognition system is collected along with a corresponding true transcription of the speech recognition speech text data. (Col. 1, lines 55-57) The text data generated from the speech recognition system is then aligned with the corresponding true transcription of text data. (Col. 1, lines 57-59) Thus, Brandow appears to propose processing text to improve readability for a human user, which is different than the present invention.

The combination of Brandow and Ellozy does not overcome the deficiencies of Brandow set forth above. In that regard, the combination of Brandow and Ellozy would produce an arrangement in which a speech recognizer produces words, the words are corrected, and then the corrected words are converted to indexer features. Combining Brandow and Ellozy does not result in the present invention.

The instantly claimed invention requires specifically that "said textual input appears as a feature-extracted transformation". (Claim 1) Similar language appears in the other independent claims. Utilizing a "feature-extracted transformation" prior to reconfiguration is simply not taught or suggested by either Brandow and Ellozy.

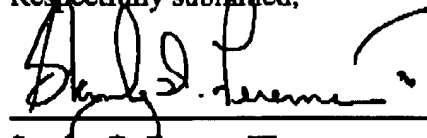
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By virtue of dependence from what are believed to be allowable independent Claims 1, 10, and 19, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 2-9 and 11-18 are also presently allowable. Applicants acknowledges that Claims 304 and 12-13 were indicated by the Examiner as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants reserve the right to file new claims of such scope at a later date that would still, at that point, presumably be allowable.

The "prior art made of record" has been reviewed. Applicants acknowledge that such prior art was not deemed by the Office to be sufficiently relevant as to have been applied against the claims of the instant application. To the extent that the Office may apply such prior art against the claims in the future, Applicants will be fully prepared to respond thereto.

In summary, it is respectfully submitted that the instant application, including Claims 1-19, is presently in condition for allowance. Notice to the effect is hereby earnestly solicited. If there are any further issues in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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